

IN THE CLAIMS

Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The status of each claim is set forth in parentheses. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of discovering ~~that a particular network node having an assigned address~~ has been connected to a computer network, wherein the network includes including (a) plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a discovery portion, the method comprising:

responding to ~~[[the]]~~ an establishment of ~~[[the]]~~ a connection of the particular network node to the network, ~~the network portion of the server arrangement receiving an access request from the particular network node, wherein the particular network node has an assigned address assigned by a device in the network by transmitting an initial request from the particular node to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node, wherein the assigned address is assigned when the particular node is connected to the network; the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;~~

in response to receiving the access request, the network portion authenticating the particular network node;

the network portion ~~supplying the~~ sending a discovery request and the assigned address of the particular network node to the discovery portion of the server arrangement ~~[[only]]~~ after the network portion has ~~determined that~~ successfully authenticated the particular network node ~~is an authenticated node of the network;~~

the discovery portion ~~responding to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by~~ storing the assigned address of the particular network node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for that particular network node ~~in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;~~

the discovery procedure for the particular network node including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network topography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular network node is connected, and the configuration of the particular network node.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the discovery portion receives a sequence of discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network, the discovery portion storing the assigned addresses of the received requests from the various nodes.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the ~~sequence of~~ discovery portion stores the assigned addresses ~~is stored~~ as a stack that the discovery portion processes in a first-in-first-out order.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of discovering that a particular network node ~~having an assigned address~~ has been connected to a computer network, wherein the network includes including (a) plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a discovery portion, the method comprising:

responding to ~~[[the]]~~ an establishment of ~~[[the]]~~ a connection of the particular network node to the network, the network portion of the server arrangement receiving an access request from the particular network node, wherein the particular network node has an assigned address assigned by a device in the network by transmitting an initial request from the particular node to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node, wherein the assigned address is assigned when the particular node is connected to the network; the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;

in response to receiving the access request, the network portion authenticating the particular network node;

the network portion ~~supplying the~~ sending a discovery request and the assigned address of the particular network node to the discovery portion of the server arrangement ~~[[only]]~~ after the network portion has ~~determined that~~ successfully authenticated the particular network node ~~is an authenticated node of the network;~~

the discovery portion ~~responding to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by~~ storing the assigned address of the particular network node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular

network node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular network node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network topography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular network node is connected, and the configuration of the particular network node.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the discovery portion receives a sequence of discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network, the discovery portion storing the assigned addresses of the received requests from the various nodes.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36 wherein the ~~sequence of discovery~~ portion stores the assigned addresses ~~is stored~~ as a stack that the discovery portion processes in a first-in-first-out order.

38. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory storage medium or device storing machine-readable information for causing a processor to execute the steps of claim 32 on the network of claim 32.

39. (Currently Amended) A ~~non-transitory~~ storage medium or device storing machine-readable information for causing a processor to execute the steps of claim 35 on the server arrangement of claim 35.

40. (Currently Amended) A server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor, the server arrangement for discovering that a particular network node ~~having an assigned address~~ has been connected to a computer network, wherein the particular network node has an assigned address assigned by a device in the network, ~~including plural nodes, one of which is the particular node,~~ the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion;

the network portion being arranged to, responding to ~~[[the]]~~ an establishment of ~~[[the]]~~ a connection of the particular network node to the network, receive an access request from the particular network node by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node, wherein the assigned address is assigned when the particular node is connected to the network;

the network portion being arranged to authenticate the particular network node in response to receiving the access request ~~respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;~~

the network portion being arranged to ~~supply the~~ send a discovery request and the assigned address of the particular network node to the discovery portion ~~[[only]]~~ after the network portion has ~~determined that~~ successfully authenticated the particular network node is ~~an authenticated node of the network;~~

the discovery portion being arranged to ~~respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing~~ store the assigned address of the particular network node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular network node ~~in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion; and~~

the discovery procedure for the particular network node including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network topography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular network node is connected, and the configuration of the particular network node.

41. (Currently Amended) The server arrangement of claim 40 wherein the discovery portion is arranged to receive a sequence of ~~delivery~~ discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

42. (Currently Amended) The server arrangement of claim 41 wherein the storage is arranged to store the ~~sequence of~~ assigned addresses as a stack, the discovery portion being arranged to process the stack in a first-in-first-out order.

43. (Currently Amended) A server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor, the server arrangement for discovering that a particular network node ~~having an assigned address~~ has been connected to a computer network, wherein the

~~particular network node has an address assigned by a device in the network, including plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, the server arrangement including:~~

~~a network portion and a discovery portion;~~

~~the network portion being arranged to, responding to [[the]] an establishment of [[the]] a connection of the particular network node to the network, receive an access request from the particular network node by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node, wherein the assigned address is assigned when the particular node is connected to the network;~~

~~the network portion being arranged to authenticate the particular network node in response to receiving the access request respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;~~

~~the network portion being arranged to supply the send a discovery request and the assigned address of the particular network node to the discovery portion [[only]] after the network portion has determined that successfully authenticated the particular network node is an authenticated node of the network;~~

~~the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing store the assigned address of the particular network node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular network node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion, wherein the assigned address is assigned when the particular node is connected to the network;~~

the discovery procedure for the particular network node including determining status information about the particular network node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network topography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular network node is connected, and the configuration of the particular network node.

44. (Currently Amended) The server arrangement of claim 43 wherein the discovery portion is arranged to receive a sequence of ~~delivery~~ discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

45. (Currently Amended) The server arrangement of claim 44 wherein the storage is arranged to store the ~~sequence of~~ assigned addresses as a stack, the discovery portion being arranged to process the stack in ~~first-in-first-out~~ and a first-in-first-out order.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer network for discovering that a particular network node ~~having an assigned address~~ has been connected to the computer network, the network comprising:

a server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor; and

plural nodes, one of which is the particular network node, wherein the particular network node is assigned an address by the network;

the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion, the network portion being arranged to, responding to [[the]] an establishment of [[the]] a connection of the particular network node to the network, receive an access request from the particular network node by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network,

the network portion being arranged to authenticate the particular network node in response to receiving the access request,

the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node and wherein the assigned address is assigned when the particular node is connected to the network, the network portion of the server arrangement being arranged to respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node,

the network portion being arranged to ~~supply the~~ send a discovery request and the assigned address of the particular network node to the discovery portion ~~[[only]]~~ after the network portion has ~~determined that~~ successfully authenticated the particular network node is an authenticated node of the network,

the discovery portion being arranged to ~~respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing~~ store the assigned address of the particular network node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular network node ~~in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion, and~~

the discovery procedure for the particular network node including determining status information about the particular network node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network topography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular network node is connected, and the configuration of the particular network node.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer network of claim 46 wherein the discovery portion is arranged to receive a sequence of ~~delivery~~ discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein the particular node includes a portable computer and a docking station, the docking station responding to the portable computer being initially connected to the docking station by booting the portable computer and performing a logon dialog between the network portion of the server arrangement and the portable computer;

the logon dialog being the ~~initial~~ access request;

the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the logon dialog from the portable computer by ~~determining if~~ authenticating the portable computer is ~~an~~ authenticated node of the network;

the server arrangement, when connected to the authenticated portable computer ~~that is the authenticated node~~, functioning as a domain controller for the portable computer.